

1 - 19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim~~  
~~13,~~ A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external  
defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:  
prompting an operator with a first electrode pad prompt;  
detecting with the automatic external defibrillator prior  
to pad attachment that the pad is being handled;  
prompting an operator, in response to detecting pad  
handling, to conduct a pad placement action;  
sensing that the operator has conducted the prompted pad  
placement action; and  
following placement of the pads on the subject, receiving  
an ECG signal from the subject,  
wherein prompting an operator in response to detecting  
pad handling further comprises prompting the operator to look  
at the pictures on the pads.

21. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
20, wherein prompting an operator further comprises prompting  
the operator to place the pads as shown by the icons on the  
pads; and

wherein sensing further comprises sensing that the pads  
have been placed on the subject.

22. (previously presented) The method according to claim  
21, wherein sensing further comprises sensing an impedance  
signal with the pads.

23. (previously presented) A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:

prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action;  
sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not;

following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt to remove a pad liner.

24. (previously presented) A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:

prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action;  
sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not;

following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt that the pads must not be touching each other.

25. (previously presented) A method for guiding an operator of an automatic external defibrillator in pad placement on a subject comprising:

prompting an operator to conduct a pad placement action;  
sensing whether the pads are in proper contact with the subject and, if they are not;

following sensing, issuing a pad correction prompt that the pads must not touch clothing.

26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 23, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.

27. (previously presented) The method according to claim 24, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.

28. (previously presented) The method according to claim 25, further comprising repeating a prompt until the defibrillator senses that the operator has conducted the prompted action.